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LB 1228, 1229

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bohlke, on the bill, you know, there are many of us that represent large schools and small schools alike...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, we do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...and the question always comes up, are they treated, you know, equal? That's hard to do I realize, but we have to answer those questions. If a smaller school, do you envision if this program is adopted, will a smaller system of 120, 130, whatever, would they have to hire another teacher in order to qualify for the funds or could they work it within the present system?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Oh, no, Senator Cudaback. First of all, they'd get the \$6,000 as a base start. That could be for any...they could use that a number of different ways. They don't have to hire a teacher. Then what they would get they could all go together and hire a gifted coordinator. That's what we heard from the area in Benkelman which they hope to do is to go together with other districts and begin to have a part-time coordinator that would travel the district. So there's about as much flexibility in here, and I think it offers some of our small schools the opportunity as you had heard me on LB 1228 talk about the superintendent from Thedford who said they have wanted to offer a program and get started. With 1228 and 1229, he said they are going to be able to do that in their part of their state. You don't get...you get smaller than Thedford, but that's certainly...Thedford and Benkelman represent the attitude that I've heard from the smaller schools.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I thought that's what I heard you say earlier, but I heard rumblings throughout the floor here that perhaps some of the smaller systems wouldn't be able to even qualify for the dollars because they couldn't, they didn't have the personnel to, you know, qualify with, you might say. That shouldn't have any bearing on...

SENATOR BOHLKE: No, that wouldn't. You know, they have to...they get the \$6,000 so even if they use \$6,000 to have a teacher dedicate part of their time almost like an extra